DAWN OF DC

BLUE BEETLE

3

TRUJILLO
GUTIÉRREZ
QUINTANA

READY...

FIGHT!

VS

SELECT PLAYER:

13+
TEEN

BATWOMAN AND LUKE FOX UNCOVER THE DEEPEST, DARKEST SECRETS OF THE MULTIVERSE!

OUTSIDERS

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Written by
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AND COLLIN KELLY

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ROBERT CAREY

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A NEW
ONGOING SERIES

NOVEMBER

CTW

...THEY **WRECKED** THE HORIZON'S HOME, ATTACKED DYNASTES AND NITIDA, SHEPHERD OOD-- AND THEN THEY JUST **DISAPPEARED!**

IT WAS TERRIBLE! I'M NOT EVEN SURE I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT THEM.

BUT THEY LEFT BEHIND THESE **SYMBOLS** OF SOME KIND. RUNES? **GLYPHS?**

NOT SURE.

BUT KHAJI SAYS THEY'RE **ARCANE** IN ORIGIN! **MAGIC!**

...

HELLO?

DID SHE JUST HANG UP ON ME?

JAIME...

WE GOTTA MAKE THIS QUICK.

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A SHIFT!

SCARAB WAR CHAPTER THREE

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Andrew Marino EDITOR Katie Kubert GROUP EDITOR

WELCOME TO THE OBLIVION BAR, AN EXTRADIMENSIONAL DIVE, LOUNGE, AND SOCIAL PARLOR!

MAGIC USERS *ONLY.* TWO-DRINK MINIMUM.

YOU WORK *HERE?*

ONLY *PART-TIME.* I'M STILL TRYING TO GET MY *DEGREE.*

COOL! I WORK IN A, *UM,* *RESTAURANT* TOO!

WHAT CAN I GET YOU, BUG BOY?

I'M HOPING FOR SOME *ANSWERS?*

SEE, I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THIS *WEIRD SYMBOL* MEANS. THIS *RED MONSTER* IS TRYING TO KILL EVERYONE I KNOW AND--

UH-HUH, UH-HUH.

DOES THIS LOOK FAMILIAR AT ALL?

BEATS ME.

TRACI 13 WHO IS THIS KID?

UMM...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT BLUE DEVIL. HE'S BEEN A LITTLE *PRICKLY* THESE DAYS.

I BROUGHT YOU HERE FOR A *REASON,* JAIME. I THINK I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP!

SHE'S SITTING THERE.

LEMME DROP OFF THESE DRINKS AND I'LL BE RIGHT OVER.

JAIME REYES, I BELIEVE I CAN HELP YOU IN YOUR PERSONAL *WAR.*

"WAR!?" YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

WHO ARE *YOU?*

YOU MAY CALL ME MADAME XANADU!

NOW TAKE A SEAT.

DRAW A CARD.

X'HAL!

IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I THOUGHT!

PRINCESS KORIAND'R, WE ARE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR FORMALITY, SHEPHERD OOD. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A KILLING BLOW TO A HUMAN PROVED INSUFFICIENT. I AM FORTUNATE THE ATTACKER DID NOT KNOW OF OUR UNIQUE PHYSIOLOGY.

WE WILL RECOVER, BUT STILL THE THREAT REMAINS.

WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD, STARFIRE. THEY ESCAPED RIGHT AS JAIME ARRIVED.

I DON'T THINK WE'RE READY!

NEVER DOUBT YOURSELF, ROMA.

I'VE SEEN WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF--YOUR POWER.

I PROMISE YOU WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS.

K...

I FEEL LIKE I *FAILED* YOU ALL. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE FIGHTING BY JAIME'S SIDE...

...WHERE IS HE?

THAT'S THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR, ISN'T IT?

BRENDA JUST WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO CHECK ON MY BROTHER, AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE WHAT THEY SAID?

THE NURSE TOLD HER A BUNCH OF TEDDY'S ***HAS-BEEN*** "SUPERHERO" BUDDIES PACKED HIM UP AND TOOK HIM SOMEWHERE ELSE.

BUT THEY ***DIDN'T KNOW WHERE!*** INCREDIBLE!

TED'S IN ***GOOD HANDS,*** VICTORIA. I PROMISE.

OH YEAH? IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE ALL DOING A ***BANG-UP*** JOB OF PROTECTING ONE ANOTHER.

SHEPHERD OOD, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HOME IS ***UNFORGIVABLE! TRULY!***

FROM NOW ON I'M GOING TO SUPPLY A 24/7 ***SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE DETAIL*** FOR ESTRELLA PLAZA. I ***WON'T*** LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN.

WE DON'T WANT YOUR CAMERAS OR YOUR SOLDIERS. WE HAVE ***CHAMPIONS*** OF OUR OWN.

AND HOW'S ***THAT*** GOING FOR YOU?

BRENDA, ARE YOU... *WORKING FOR THAT WOMAN?*

IT'S *COMPLICATED*, XIOMARA.

PLEASE DON'T TELL JAIME!

I JUST, *UM*, HAVEN'T FOUND THE RIGHT TIME YET.

WHAT OTHER SECRETS ARE YOU KEEPING FROM JAIME?

AH... WHY DOES TRANSFORMING HURT?

NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

VICTORIA IS *BAD NEWS*, I KNOW.

BUT IF I WANT TO HELP JAIME, I NEED TO EARN HER *TRUST*.

HER? *TRUST?*

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE JAIME ISN'T THE *ONLY* ONE YOU'RE LYING TO...

THOSE SYMBOLS ARE ANCIENT, FORGOTTEN.

FORBIDDEN.

X

"THERE ARE TWO OF YOU.

"ALMOST A MIRROR. ALMOST A DUPLICATE.

"DARKER. TAINTED.

"MORE DEADLY.

"SOMEONE FROM KHAJI DA'S PAST.

"HE MUST BE OVERCOME.

"YOUR RISK IS GREAT.

"WHAT YOU HOLD DEAR IS IN PERIL!

"THE PAIN IS REAL.

"HIS ANGER, HIS HUNGER ARE INSATIABLE.

"ONLY YOU ALONE CAN STOP HIM.

BUT YOU ALONE WILL FALL.

BEWARE, JAIME.

BEWARE OF WHAT? BEWARE OF WHO?

XVIII

THE BLOOD SCARAB.

DAN GARRETT, THE FIRST BLUE BEETLE-- HE FOUND KHAJI DA IN A PHARAOH'S TOMB! BUT WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

JAIME REYES, THE NAME YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR IS KHA-EF-RE.

KHA-EF-WHAT?

PHARAOH KHA-EF-RE WAS A POWERFUL BLOOD SORCERER WHO REIGNED OVER HIS KINGDOM MILLENNIA AGO.

KHA-EF-RE WAS A TYRANT.

HE WIELDED A POWER MATCHED ONLY BY THE GODS THEMSELVES.

TED TOLD ME ONCE THAT DAN DEFEATED A PHARAOH DECADES AGO!

SOMETHING'S VERY OFF HERE.

TRACI, I HAVE ANOTHER FAVOR TO ASK...

CAN YOU TAKE ME TO EGYPT?

WOW!

PRETTY COOL, HUH?

KHAJI, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE?

CONFIRMED. BASED ON DAN GARRETT'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AS WELL AS MY OWN DATA, YOU ARE CURRENTLY AT THE TOMB OF KHA-EF-RE.

HUH.

I GUESS WE... START DIGGING?

NOT QUITE.

I FEEL IT.

AN ANCIENT CITY. A *DORMANT POWER* I CAN TAP INTO.

I'VE DONE A LOT OF *GROWING UP*, JAIME.

WHOOSH

WOW. YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING!

SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE TOO.

THERE YOU GO.

HUH.

IT LOOKS LIKE A **BOMB** WENT OFF HERE!

JOG MY MEMORY, WHAT'S DAN GARRETT'S DEAL AGAIN?

DAN WAS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST ON A RESEARCH TRIP WHEN HE STUMBLED ON THIS TOMB, WHERE HE FOUND KHAJI DA...

HN. THEY PERFORMED **SACRIFICES** IN THIS PLACE.

I CAN STILL **FEEL THE PAIN** OF THE VICTIMS.

YOU SEE, MAGIC IS BUILT ON **PASSION, EMOTION.**

AND SOME THINGS-- SOME **FEELINGS** NEVER GO AWAY.

...

NOT WITH US, THOUGH! WE'RE SO DONEZO.

OH. YEAH, RIGHT.

KHA-EF-RE'S TOMB.

THERE WAS ONCE A MAGICAL SEAL HERE, BUT THE SPELL WAS BROKEN LONG AGO...

I FEEL SOMETHING.

ARE YOU OKAY, KHAJI?

THIS SITE IS WHERE I WAS ONCE TORTURED BY THE PHARAOH.

WHERE MY POWER WAS USED TO IMPRISON HIM.

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE WAS HERE RECENTLY.

THAT'S NOT GOOD.

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

THE TOMB!

IS IT COLLAPSING?

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D FIND ME...

OH CRAP!

WATCH OUT!

END THIS NOW!

NOW WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

FINE, HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

LEGADO FORM ACTIVATING!

YOU CAME FOR TED, YOU CAME FOR THE HORIZON...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS FIGHT!

GRAAAAGH!

SHNK

I WON'T LET YOU HURT ANYONE ELSE!

SLAM

WHOA!

YOUR ATTACKS ARE POINTLESS. I CAN SIMPLY PHASE AWAY.

STAY AWAY FROM HIM!

KRAKOOM

AGH!

PHASING? CUTE TRICK!

I LEARNED THAT ONE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

SORCERESS!

NOW TRY YOUR DISAPPEARING ACT AGAIN!

I DON'T NEED TO.

FSH FSH FSH

AGH!

JAIME!

KA KRA KS

I WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING THAT STANDS IN MY WAY UNTIL YOU RETURN WHAT BELONGS TO ME, BLUE BEETLE.

WHAT BELONGS TO YOU? WHAT COULD JAIME POSSIBLY HAVE OF YOURS?!

TRACI!

BOOOLASSSTT!

CRACKSH

GAHHHH!

WHATEVER YOU THINK I HAVE, I DON'T. BUT I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH WHAT YOU DID TO TED!

I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM YOU.

NOW, JAIME! DO IT!

COWARD.

YOU'RE NOT WORTHY OF YOUR POWER.

I...

...I...

CRK

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

DAMMIT!

WE GOTTA GO!

WAIT, TRACI--!

NO! YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE!

THIS ISN'T WORTH DYING FOR!

OHMYGOD. THAT WAS EXHAUST-ING.

TRACI! WHAT DID YOU DO?

I SAVED YOUR LIFE! THAT PLACE WAS GOING TO COLLAPSE ANY SECOND!

YOU COULD HAVE ENDED IT RIGHT THERE. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

I GUESS I...

I MEAN...

I WASN'T.

MAYBE THE BLOOD SCARAB...?

NO.

THEY'RE NOT DEAD, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.

YOU KNOW IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT EASY.

JAIME, IF YOU AREN'T MORE CAREFUL THE BLOOD SCARAB WILL *KILL YOU!*

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

HATS ON ICE!

YOU'RE RIGHT.

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

HOW FAR ARE YOU WILLING TO GO TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT?

NEXT: DATE Night!

WALTER BROUGHT HIS FRIENDS TOGETHER
AND ASKED A SIMPLE QUESTION:

"HOW DO YOU THINK THE WORLD WILL END?"

NO ONE WAS READY FOR HIS ANSWER.

THE NICE HOUSE ON THE LAKE

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"ONE OF THE BEST HORROR COMICS
IN YEARS AND MAYBE EVEN EVER." —AIPT

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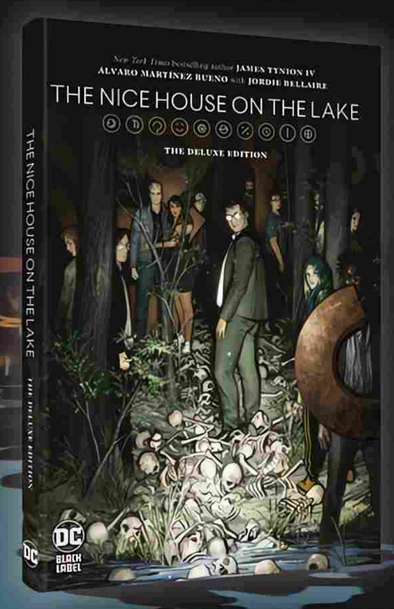
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THE DELUXE EDITION
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DC BLACK LABEL

Ages 17+

Written by
James Tynion IV

Art by
Álvaro Martínez Bueno

ON SALE NOW!

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN OFF-WORLD

INTERVIEW WITH JASON AARON

The blockbuster creative team of writer Jason Aaron and artist Doug Mahnke unite for *Batman: Off-World*, a seven-issue epic sending Batman toward the stars. DC Nation sat down with Aaron to help uncover the burning secrets behind this series.

Batman has historically been a very grounded character, and this story sends him into deep space. What was it like taking the Dark Knight so out of his element?

Taking Batman out of his element is one of the most fun parts of this story. This is a young Batman and he's only just started to get a handle on his mission in Gotham. Then something otherworldly happens that shows Bruce how little he really knows about the universe as a whole. Now he's taking on a challenge unlike anything he's faced before.

As this story begins we find Batman aboard a spacecraft called the *War Storm*. What is this ship and who are some of the characters already on it?

The *War Storm* is a massive spaceship that acts as a mercenary training school. It goes from world to world, abducting aliens and forcing them to train as hired soldiers. Once Batman finds himself there, he meets up with Ione of Tamaran, who's a fiery stormchaser, which is like a bounty hunter in this particular sector of space, the Slag Galaxy.

What has it been like collaborating with legendary artist Doug Mahnke?

It's a total dream come true. For years now, Doug has been at the top of my "Have to Work With" list for artists. He's been absolutely nailing it on this project from page one. No surprise, but Doug draws the best-looking horde of alien killers you could ever imagine.

You've penned so many iconic runs on different superheroes—what are you specifically bringing to Batman that readers haven't seen before?

I love writing a young Batman thrown into a corner of the DCU that's wholly new to him. As a reader, it was really DC that first made me a comics fan as a kid. This project is very much an ode to some of those DC series that hooked me, like *The New Teen Titans*, *Atari Force*, and *The Dark Knight Returns*.

After many years of writing comics at other publishers, what has it been like to return to DC?

It feels great. It's a return in that Vertigo gave me one of my first big breaks in comics several years ago. But to me this *really* feels like my DC debut. You better believe that *Batman: Off-World* is just the first of many new DC projects that I'm excited to bring to life.

DON'T MISS *BATMAN: OFF-WORLD* #1, ON SALE IN NOVEMBER!

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